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CRICKLADE AND WOOTTON BASSETT

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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M E D I C A L O F F I C E R ' S R E P O R T

For the year ended 31st December, 1940.

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With compliments.

Wootton Bassett,
Wilts.

January, 1942.

To:
The Cricklade & Wootton Bassett Rural District Council.

Mrs.Buxton and Gentlemen,

The following is an abreviated report on the health of the population and the sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1940.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (acres)	46,618
Population	13,160
Number of inhabited houses	3,362
Rateable Value	£41,406
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£167

Birth Rate
222 births were registered, 115 male and 107 female, of which 217 were legitimate and 5 illegitimate. There were 4 Still Births, all of legitimate infants.

Birth Rate 16.87

Death Rate
175 deaths were registered in the district, 87 being males and 88 females. 25 were registered as dying from some form of Cancer, 40 from diseases of the Heart, 16 from Bronchitis, 9 from Pneumonia. There were 4 deaths from Diphtheria, none from Puerperal Sepsis.

Death Rate 13.30

Infantile Mortality
There were 9 deaths of children under one year of age.

Rate per 1,000 Births 38.63

Infectious Disease
I regret to say there was a very considerable increase in the incidence of Infectious Disease during the year, the total number of cases notified being the highest during the 32 years of my tenure of the office of Medical Officer of Health. The increase occurred in cases of Diphtheria and Scarlatina, the incidence of these two diseases being also raised in the whole County. 126 cases of Scarlatina and 60 of Diphtheria were notified. There were 4 deaths from Diphtheria. These diseases assumed local epidemic proportions principally among the children attending Purton School. On the advice of the County Medical Officer of Health, the services of Professor Wilson and the Emergency Medical Laboratory at Oxford were enlisted, and subsequent to their investigations and the measures taken under their direction, the outbreak gradually terminated. Immunisation of all children in Wiltshire, between the ages of 1 and 15 years, was commenced by the County Authorities, and an account of the work done and the aim and success of this measure is clearly and succinctly set out in the Annual Report of Dr.Tangye, County Medical Officer of Health, for 1940.

Tuberculosis

16 cases of this disease were notified during the year, 12 of them being cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There were 6 deaths registered of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 1 from other Tuberculous disease.

Water

Water obtained under the Comprehensive Water Scheme was supplied to the Malmesbury Rural District in February, and in April the whole district was fully supplied. There was no shortage during the year. Samples taken from this public supply at regular intervals have proved entirely satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage

The works at Cricklade, Purton and Wootton Bassett, continue to be satisfactory.

This, the first full year of the war, leaves us in the fortunate position of being able to report that there has been no serious or widespread epidemic in the district.

The advent of verminous disease is one of the most unpleasant evidences of war time conditions under which people in the district are living.

I append the report of your Sanitary Inspector. The work carried out by Mr. James is of the highest order and of course has been increased beyond all bounds. I trust the Council are fully cognisant of their good fortune in having the services of so efficient an Officer.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

JOHN N. WATSON. John N Watson

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Council Offices,
Wootton Bassett,
Wilts.

4th December, 1941.

To: Dr.J.N.Watson, Medical Officer of Health, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Rural District Council.

Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1940 -

Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year -

(a) By the Local Authority	Nil
(b) By other bodies or persons	56

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year -

(1) (a) Number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	17
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	42
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	5
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	15
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	nil
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	10

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	7

There was no action taken under Statutory Powers.

Nuisances. Public Health Acts, 1875 and 1936.

Number of nuisances discovered ...	28
" " " abated ...	28
" " inspections made ...	82

Water Supplies

Number of water samples taken and submitted for analysis:

	Public supplies	Private supplies	Total
Chemical	2	-	2
Bacteriological	6	20	26
	8	20	28

Results of the above samples:

	Unfit for drinking purposes.	Fit for drinking purposes
Public supplies (chemical and bacteriological)	-	8
Private Supplies	17	3

The new water scheme for the supply of water to practically all parts of the district was completed early in the year. Pumping from the bore-hole at Ashton Keynes was commenced in April and the sources of supply at Cricklade and Purton were discontinued.

Samples of water taken from the Ashton Keynes bore-hole prove the water to be of excellent purity.

Number of visits made re water supplies:

In connection with public supplies	175
" " " private supplies	146
	321

Number of water connections made as the result of informal notices	19

Inspection and supervision of Food

Milk.

No. of Dairies on Register	332
" " inspections	74
" " visits made in connection with the taking of samples of Accredited Milk	51
" " pasteurising plants (only 1 was operated)	2

Meat

Slaughtering in private slaughterhouses was carried out during the first two weeks of January only; thereafter any slaughtering was carried out at a slaughterhouse taken over by the Ministry of Food.

Proceedings were taken against a person in June for an offence under Section 57 of The Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and for breaches of Articles 8 and 10 of The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, and convictions obtained.

No.of visits made to slaughterhouses and shops and inspections made under The Public Health (Meat) Regulations ...	241

The carcase and organs of every animal killed in the district were examined.

Carcases inspected

	Cattle, excluding cows.	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total
No.of animals killed	16	14	14,095	46	98	14,269
No.of carcases inspected	16	14	14,095	46	101	14,272

Details and weight of condemned meat

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Beef		1	0	11
Veal	2	11	0	1
Bacon and Pork ...		1	2	1
Mutton		2	0	27
Offal	1	4	1	8
	4	0	0	20

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Percentage of the total of condemned meat.
Condemned for diseases other than Tuberculosis	2	19	2	2	74.23
Condemned for Tuberculosis	1	0	2	18	25.77

Knackers Yards

There is only one Knacker's yard in the district. The premises were not used during the year.

Factories Act.

No. of Factories on Register	65
" " inspections made	13

Infectious Diseases

No. of rooms disinfected	149
" " visits re infectious diseases ...	211

Public Cleansing and Salvage

Scavenging is carried out by direct labour. Refuse is deposited at tips in the parishes of Wootton Bassett, Ashton Keynes, Cricklade and Purton.

Collections of salvageable waste materials from nearly every house in the district were commenced in March.

Total cost of refuse and salvage collections (year ended 31st March, 1941)	£677. 5. 5.
Running cost of refuse lorry per mile ...	6.041d
Miles per gallon	7.809

Salvageable Materials Collected

	Tons	cwts.
Waste Paper	52	12
Scrap Iron	36	5
Non-ferrous metals		9
Rags	1	19
Bones		18
Bottles and jars	9	5
	101	8

Value of salvaged materials ... ... £202. 18s. 9d.

No. of visits re refuse collection and salvage 41

Rats and Mice Destruction Act

Only two complaints were received of rat infestation, and the two premises were baited with success. The refuse tips were kept fairly free from rats during the year owing to the work carried out by the rat catcher employed by the Council.

No. of visits to premises under the above Act 5

Petroleum Acts

No. of Licences issued to store petroleum	33
" " " " " " carbide	5
" " " " " " petroleum and carbide	4

Petroleum is kept in underground tanks at all storage places excepting one.

The normal work of the Public Health Department was interrupted throughout the year by work carried out in connection with A.R.P. and Civil Defence.

No. of visits made in connection with A.R.P. and Civil Defence 827

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

C.E.JAMES.

Sanitary Inspector.